

Claim Amendments

Claim 26 has been amended as follows:

- 1 26. (AMENDED) A method for [reducing stiction in a]
2 operating a MEMS device having a flap that is movable
3 with respect to a base, the method comprising:
4 applying a [fixed] pre-bias force to the flap to move
5 the flap at least partially out of contact with an
6 underlying base.

New Claims

- 10 New claims 27-31 cover material that was disclosed in the
original specification at page 8, lines 1-25, Figs. 2A-2B,
6 and original claim 26. The applicants submit that no new
matter has been added with this amendment.

Specification Amendments:

- 15 The applicants respectfully request that the following
amendments have be entered with respect to the original
specification:

At page 1, line 5, change "MEMS MIRRORS WITH PRECISION
CLAMPING MECHANISM" to -- USE OF APPLIED FORCE TO IMPROVE
20 MEMS SWITCH PERFORMANCE --;

at page 1, line 8, after "This application", insert -- is a
divisional of Application Serial No. 09/834,744, which --;

at page 1, line 9, after "November 29, 2000" Insert --,
both of which are incorporated herein by reference --;

- 25 at page 2, line 10, after "yield." Insert --In addition,
stiction between the movable mirror 111 and the base 103
may adversely affect the performance of the switch 100.--;

at page 2, line 13, after "yield" and before "scalable"
insert --, low-stiction,--;

- 30 at page 2, line 17, after "overcome by a" and before
"microelectromechanical" insert -- method for reducing

stiction in a MEMS device having a flap that is movable with respect to a base. The method includes applying a force to the flap to move the flap at least partially out of contact with an underlying base. Means for applying
5 such a biasing force may be incorporated into a --;

at page 21 line 5, after "A" and before "microelectromechanical" insert --method is disclosed for reducing stiction in a MEMS device having a flap that is movable with respect to a base. The method includes
10 applying a force to the flap to move the flap at least partially out of contact with an underlying base. Means for applying such a biasing force may be incorporated into a --;

at page 21, line 5, after "apparatus", change "has" to --
15 having--;

REMARKS:

Reasons This Amendment Should be Entered

The Applicants submit that the amendments submitted herein
20 are being made with the filing of the application. The Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment to correct minor informalities and to cover material within the scope of the present invention.

25 Title Amendment

The title has been amended to reflect the scope of claims
26-37.

Specification Amendments

30 The Applicants have amended the specification to include a cross reference to the parent application (U.S. Ser. No.

09/834,744) and to make the summary and abstract correspond to the claims. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification, e.g., at page, 8, lines 1-25, Figs. 2A-2B and 6. The applicants submit that these amendments
5 merely make explicit that which was implicit in the original specification as filed. As such, no new matter has been added with these amendments.

Claim Amendments

10 The Applicants have amended claim 26, which is directed to a method for reducing stiction, and added new claims 27-37 to cover material, which they believe to be inventive, and disclosed in the parent application. The applicants submit that no new matter has been added with these amendments.
15 Claim 26 has been amended to replace "fixed" with --pre-bias--. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 8, lines 1-4. The applicants submit that the amendment does not narrow, and indeed broadens, the scope of claim 26. As such this amendment does not
20 narrow the scope of claim 26 within the meaning of the decision in *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd.*, 234 F3d 558, 566, 56 U.S.P.Q.2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 2000).
25 New dependent claims 27-31 cover features in addition to those claimed in claim 26. Support for claims 27-31 may be found in the specification at page 8, lines 1-25.

New dependent claims 32-37 are directed to apparatus that incorporate similar features to those described in claim 26-31. Support for these claims can be found in the specification at page 8, lines 1-25, and Fig. 2A-2B.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment prior to consideration of the application and that the Examiner consider the application and point out the allowable material in the next office action.

Respectfully submitted,

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